

## Iraq emerges Group A leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq Sunday beat China 1-0 to emerge on top of the Asian Group A World Cup qualifying matches of the group's first round played in Irbid. Ahmad Radi scored the sole goal in the 47th minute. The second round of the group will begin in China on June 12. Iraq led the group with seven points from four games, beating Pakistan and Yemen and drawing with Jordan. Earlier Sunday, Jordan scored its first win of the first round, scoring three goals to one (see story on page 9).

Volume 17 Number 5321

## UAE president sends message to Iran

DUBAI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan sent a letter Sunday to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on relations between their two states, locked in a dispute over three strategic Gulf islands. The official Emirates News Agency said the letter was delivered by the United Arab Emirates ambassador in Tehran to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Velayati toured Gulf Arab states last week to try to improve his country's ties with its neighbours and delivered a letter from Mr. Rafsanjani to Sheikh Zayed during his stop in the UAE. Mr. Velayati said after his talks in the UAE that he and officials had agreed to resume talks to settle the dispute.

## Iran rejects Kuwaiti criticism

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper attacked Kuwait Sunday for calling Iran an expansionist state, saying such criticism was repeated by the United States. "Such foolish and unwarranted utterances from the official Kuwait News Agency is at the instance and instigation of a foreign hand," Tehran's Kayhan International said about comments published by KUNA on May 25. "Kuwait is Washington's protege, and the need of suspicion points to America, whose anti-Iran, or rather anti-Islamic stance is clearly reflected in its Middle East policy." KUNA, in a report on the arrival of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati for a two-day stay, urged Iran to solve its disputes with Gulf Arab neighbours and end what it called expansionism and infiltration into neighbouring states.

## Union urges mercy for Egyptian militants

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's engineers' syndicate, dominated by Muslim fundamentalists, has urged President Hosni Mubarak to reduce 22 death and 59 prison sentences passed on Muslim militants by military courts. The syndicate said it was making the appeal on the occasion of Monday's Feast of Sacrifice, which marks the climax of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and is a time when rulers traditionally show clemency to prisoners. "The freedoms committee of the engineers' syndicate appeals to Your Excellency to use your powers and authority to reduce the sentences passed on defendants in the cases which have been tried by military courts, since they are your sons and the sons of beloved Egypt," the letter to Mr. Mubarak said. The letter, a copy of which was sent to Reuters Saturday night, added: "Reducing the sentences will encourage the nation to come together and unite to confront its enemies' designs."

## Pakistan arrests 3 drug smugglers

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan customs officials arrested three people Sunday after they tried to smuggle two kilogrammes of heroin aboard a flight to Britain, the official APP news agency said. Acting on a tip-off, customs officials found the heroin hidden in a secret compartment of a briefcase carried by a 17-year-old as he tried to board a flight to Manchester. Two Pakistani accomplices were arrested soon after in a nearby hotel, APP said. Customs officials said the youth was part of a ring alleged to be run by a Pakistani shopowner in Manchester, APP said.

## Rebels attack Sri Lankan army post

COLOMBO (R) — About 300 Tamil rebels, half of them women dressed in blue military fatigues, attacked an army post in eastern Sri Lanka, killing five soldiers, a witness and military sources said Sunday. Four soldiers were wounded in Saturday's attack on the 20-member garrison guarding the village of Jayanthiyan in the Batticaloa district, military sources said. One of the injured soldiers, I.G. Gunaratne, said from his hospital bed that about 300 rebels were involved in the attack which broke a month-long lull in rebel strikes.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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AMMAN MONDAY, MAY 31, 1993 THUL HIJEH 10, 1413

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## Two million perform Haj

Combined agency dispatches

UP TO TWO million Muslims gathered at Mount Arafat in Saudi Arabia Sunday for the climax of the annual Haj pilgrimage, mostly unaware of bitter exchanges between Iran and the Saudi guardians of Islam's holiest shrines.

Pilgrims said the vast majority of their number appeared to know nothing about a war of words that broke out after conservative Saudi Arabia barred Iranian pilgrims from holding an anti-Western rally on Thursday.

Preoccupied with their devotions, pilgrims covered in seamless white robes spent the night in air-conditioned tents at Mena, one of the main stops of the pilgrimage.

At dawn on Sunday, they started their ascent to nearby Mount Arafat where the Prophet Mohammad delivered his farewell sermon 1,400 years ago.

In a live broadcast on Saudi television, they chanted in unison: "Lubayk... Allahuma Lubayk... la Shareek Lak (I have answered your call, oh God, here

I am. There is no God but you.)"

The pilgrims said Saudi security forces surrounded Iran's Haj headquarters on the outskirts of Mecca Thursday to abort the rally in an operation so discreet and well-executed that hardly anyone in Mecca was aware of it.

This drew harsh criticism from Iran's Shi'ite Muslim rulers — a tirade unmatched since bloody clashes in 1987 between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces in which more than 400 people died in central Mecca.

Despite that rhetoric, Iran's 120,000 pilgrims have remained peaceful. But Tehran Radio said students at Tehran University on Sunday held a campus demonstration condemning the Saudi ban which they said in a statement would "lead to nothing but discord and dispute among Muslims."

The radio said the students marched around the campus chanting anti-U.S. slogans and reciting parts of a message by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei criticising the Saudi ban.

Saudi officials say about one

million Muslims, 43 per cent of them women, have travelled to the kingdom to join another million Saudi citizens and residents working in the oil-rich state in performing this year's Haj.

The Iranians, dressed like all the Hajis in seamless white robes, blended with the rest of the throngs atop Mount Arafat, where all prayed in unison.

The ritual climaxes the Haj, which emulates steps of the Prophet Mohammad 1413 years ago by the Islamic calendar.

By sunset, the pilgrims trek back to Mecca via the plane of Mina, symbolically stoning the devil along the way by throwing pebbles at three special pillars. In Mecca, they visit the Grand Mosque and circumambulate its Kaaba.

At dawn Monday, they will slaughter sheep and start the three-day 'Eid Al Adha in commemoration of Prophet Abraham's offering of his son to God.

Prince Majed, a brother of King Fahd supervising the rituals, said the Haj proceeded "in excellent condition," and the security situation was "very calm, with

nothing whatsoever disturbing it."

General Ahmad Ben Mohammad Bilal, director of Saudi security, said there were no traffic congestion or other major obstacles in moving the pilgrims atop Mount Arafat.

A leading Saudi cleric condemned use of terrorism to spread Islam as he preached atop Mount Arafat.

"Never ever was terrorism a facet of the call to the faith, or a means to it," said Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Abdullah Al Sheikh, a member of the Supreme Council of Ulema, or religious theologians in the kingdom.

"The call to Allah is one of sincerity, patience, honesty and keenness over unity of the heart and harmony and unifying of the hearts," Sheikh Abdul Aziz said.

"Muslims should be one nation, and not as seen today Muslims destroying Muslims, he said, warning that enemies of Islam use "the weak of spirit" among them for their own objectives.

The sermon was channelled by Saudi satellite to various parts of the Muslim World.



The Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali holds its first session Sunday (Petra photo)

## New Cabinet adopts plan of action

AMMAN (Petra) — The new

government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali held its first meeting Sunday during which Cabinet members had a comprehensive review of the contents of His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation.

The letter contained general outlines for the government's strategy and plan of work at the domestic and external levels.

The Cabinet also reviewed Dr. Majali's written reply to the King in which he pledged total compliance with the royal directives, stressing that the government would work in concert with a view to achieving the highest objectives and will ensure equality for all citizens in rights and obligations during its mandate.

Addressing the Cabinet, Dr. Majali stressed the common principles which all government departments should uphold and re-

spect to serve the highest national goals and protect national interests.

The cabinet approved several measures pertaining to internal affairs and endorsed an action plan.

It was also announced that the new ministers and their counterparts in the outgoing cabinet will hold separate meetings to exchange views on matters related to their respective administrations and for the handing over of all plans and ideas of the former government.

A Cabinet statement said that this measure was needed to guarantee the smooth resumption of government business once the 'Eid Al Adha holiday is over and departments re-open for normal business on Saturday.

Also Sunday, Dr. Majali and his colleagues in the new government were visited by representa-

tives of public and private organisations.

Outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and former Cabinet members as well as the speakers of Parliament, deputies and former government ministers and secretaries-general of various ministers were among those who visited the Prime Ministry.

Also calling were heads of the Civil Department, trade and professional unions, presidents of Jordanian universities, tribal leaders, and representatives of Muslim and Christian communities and Palestinians refugee camps along with heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan.

The prime minister and his colleagues will be available Monday, the first day of 'Eid Al Adha, until noon to receive visitors.

## Israelis kill two, rocket Gaza homes

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies)

— Israeli troops hunting for Palestinian activists killed two Palestinians and fired anti-tank missiles at evacuated houses in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, Palestinian and Israeli security sources said.

"The army surrounded a few houses (in Gaza City) and started rocketing them and killed two members of the Qassam (military wing of the Islamic movement Hamas) and captured one," a security source said. He gave no further details.

Palestinian residents said the army seized off a Northern Gaza neighbourhood early on Sunday and evacuated and rocketed about 10 houses.

The army said masked Palestinians had stoned the settler before they opened fire. They were walking to pray at Hebron's Machpela Cave, site of the Tomb of the Patriarchs sacred to both Jews and Muslims.

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Earlier Sunday, Jewish settlers shot and wounded two Palestinian women and a three-year-old boy in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

Doctors at Alia Hospital in Hebron said the two women were shot and the boy was wounded by bullet fragments. They were in moderate condition.

On Friday, unknown assailants stabbed to death a Jewish seminary student on his way to pray at Machpela Cave.

The streets of Hebron were deserted Sunday, a Reuter photog-

rapher in the town said.

men in the gunfire, the Palestinians said. They did not know what happened to the third man.

Palestinians named the dead men as Rayed Al Hallak of Gaza City and Ibrahim Ashur of Rafah. They said the third man's name was Mohammad Syam.

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## Rabin says coalition crisis is near an end

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he hoped to resolve a month-long government crisis at an emergency cabinet session called for Sunday night.

"I hope the willingness shown by Shas and Meretz (two coalition parties in dispute) to find a solution to the crisis will find expression by this evening," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio before the first of two cabinet sessions.

Mr. Rabin had said his government would be weakened and Middle East peace talks disrupted if the ultra-religious Shas carried out a threat to quit the government.

Shas wants the outspokenly secular head of the dovish Meretz Party Shulamit Aloni out of her job as education minister.

Mr. Rabin did not say how he would settle the row. Political sources said it was likely to end in a cabinet reshuffle.

Without the six-member Shas, Mr. Rabin would be left with only a 61 majority in the 120-member parliament, based on backing

(Continued on page 3)

## Khartoum rejects plan for rebel 'safe havens'

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government will not agree to the creation of 'safe havens' in the insurgency-hit south, the state news agency SANA reported Sunday.

It quoted Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Salih as telling U.S. Ambassador Donald Peterson that Sudanese could resolve their own problems through dialogue and the government rejects any attempt to internationalise the problem in southern Sudan.

Mr. Peterson returned recently from Nairobi, Kenya where he met the two main factions of the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). He also visited parts of the south.

He was reported to have discussed with the SPLA the setting up of "safe havens" to enable voluntary organisations and United Nations agencies to deliver food and medicine to needy people.

Mr. Abu Salih told Mr. Peterson the government was keen to continue negotiations with the rebels, SANA said.

The government and SPLA met in the Nigerian capital Abuja on April 26 for peace talks but after three weeks of discussions they agreed on little more than a pledge to meet again.

Dispute over mosque

In Cairo, the religious wing of Sudan's main opposition movement has appealed to supporters to pray at home on Monday's feast of sacrifice because the Islamic government has seized their mosque in Omdurman.

The government said on Thursday it was taking control of the Khalifa Mosque and the Tomb of the Mahdi, who led a nationalist revolt last century, to prevent the opposition using them for political

and religious endowments.

The number of cabinet portfolios was cut from 35 to 29 and the YSP now has only half as many ministries as in the last government.

That was seven seats more than the 56 secured by the YSP

Upon the Occasion of

**EID AL -ADHA**

ARAB BANK  
is honoured to convey to  
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and to the

## Mubarak never said cleric as CIA agent — paper

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian newspaper apologised Sunday for quoting President Hosni Mubarak as saying that Muslim militant leader Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who lives in the United States, was a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent.

Mahfouz Al Ansari, editor of Al Comhuria, said in a front-page article that a report last Thursday had been wrong to quote Mr. Mubarak as telling editors that Sheikh Abdul Rahman still received a CIA salary and had been given a visa to the United States because of his intelligence work.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman is spiritual leader of militants waging a violent campaign to overthrow Mr. Mubarak and has been linked with February's car bomb attack on the World Trade Centre in New York.

Mr. Ansari made no apology for Egyptian suspicions that Washington was hiding the truth about Sheikh Abdul Rahman and said many articles in U.S. and European newspapers suggested he had in fact worked for the CIA.

"A confusion happened and a mistake was made," Mr. Ansari wrote. "I attributed these comments to the president but in fact they came in the analysis, explanations and information which the editors put before the president, quoting American newspapers and media."

It would be very embarrassing for Egypt if Mr. Mubarak openly accused the United States of supporting Sheikh Abdul Rahman. The United States is Egypt's most important ally and gives it more than \$2 billion a year in aid.

Egyptian officials, struggling to end militant gun and bomb attacks that have killed 75 people and devastated Egypt's tourist industry since March last year, have complained for months that the United States has been too welcoming to the blind preacher.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, tried but acquitted of blessing the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981, left Egypt in 1989 and spent a year in Pakistan, main base for Afghan guerrillas during the 1980s, before moving to New Jersey.

The officials believe that the militant groups in Egypt are largely directed by men who fought alongside the rebels against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. The biggest groups were based in Pakistan, armed by the United States and



Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman

financed by Gulf oil states.

The war ended in victory for the rebels a year ago and Arab guerrillas turned their attention to Islamic revolution at home, particularly in Algeria and Egypt.

Mr. Ansari's original report Thursday gave a full and direct quotation from Mr. Mubarak, and Al Abram Al Massai, the evening edition of Egypt's most respected daily, also said the president named Sheikh Abdul Rahman as a U.S. agent.

"The president was asked about the story of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. He said: 'Let him stay there (the United States). He went on American television and attacked me, even insulted me. This was the first time I had seen him.'

"I did not reply to him. The sheikh has been an agent of the American intelligence apparatus since the days of Afghanistan. He went to Peshawar and spoke about his holy struggle. He gets a continuing salary and the 'visa' which he obtained was not issued by mistake. It was because he had performed specific services."

"There is a dispute between American intelligence and the internal security apparatus. They are trying to deport him but if he confessed in court that he provided services to America they will let him stay. This is his story," the newspaper report said.

The morning edition of Al Ahram on Saturday quoted U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as denying Sheikh Abdul Rahman was employed by the CIA.

Mr. Ansari said Mr. Mubarak refrained from getting involved in the discussions on the sheikh.

"The president only stressed his keenness to maintain good relations with all countries including the United States."

At another point, Mr. Ansari said Mr. Mubarak emphasised that Cairo and Washington "maintain strong and firm relationship" and that he and U.S. President Bill Clinton developed "a great understanding" during a recent visit Mr. Mubarak made to Washington.

However, Mr. Ansari provided no direct quotes by Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak held two meetings Wednesday to observe Media Day, an annual government celebration of Egyptian journalists. Around 600 people attended one session, selected editors, commentators and intellectuals the other.

On such occasions Cairo's normally uncensored media are held closely to guidelines on what to report. After Wednesday's general session, for instance, Information Minister Saif Al Sherif briefed journalists on which of the president's comments should be reported.

Mr. Ansari's unbylined article said the purported comments about Sheikh Abdul Rahman's services to the CIA were from the session with senior journalists.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who has lived in the United States since 1990, has been tried and acquitted three times in Egypt on Muslim extremist charges.

Suspects in the World Trade Centre bombings have worshipped at a New Jersey mosque where Sheikh Abdul Rahman is a preacher.

Despite denials in Cairo and Washington, Sheikh Abdul Rahman's presence in the United States is thought to be an irritant in U.S.-Egyptian relations.

"There is a cloud, definitely," political commentator Mohamad Sid Ahmad, whose politics are left of centre, said Saturday.

He told the Associated Press that Egypt feels the Clinton administration is less supportive of its problems or the Middle East peace process than previous administrations.

And about Sheikh Abdul Rahman, he said, "There have been misunderstandings, misinterpretations and mutual recriminations."

But presidential spokesman Mohammad Abdul Monem said Mr. Mubarak's relations with the Clinton administration are "very strong, ... excellent."

## Syria denies barring Jewish emigration

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria, denying that it obstructs Jewish emigration, said Sunday that departures had been checked by the hardships migrants faced abroad.

"Many Jews have decided to stay home in Syria because of the discouraging experiences of their friends," said the official newspaper Tishreen.

Some Jewish emigrants are even thinking of returning, it said.

American Jewish organisations and the U.S. government complained last week that Jewish emigration from Syria, made possible by a change of regulations in 1992, had been choked off again.

Syria had about 4,000 Jews in 1991. According to U.S. estimates 2,600 left last year when Damascus, in response to American pleas, dropped a rule that family members could not travel abroad at the same time.

American Jewish groups say the one-at-a-time rule was reimposed this year.

Tishreen said the latest complaint over the issue was "a false accusation launched by the Zionist lobby."

"There has been no alteration in travel procedures. Syrian Jews are citizens who enjoy all the rights of other Syrians."

Syrian Jews who went recently to the United States, Canada and Venezuela faced great difficulties, Tishreen said.

"The Jewish migrants were badly frustrated because they did not find work in the United States. Some who had practised medicine in Damascus for dozens of years found their credentials were not accepted and were not allowed to practise."

"Even Syrian Jewish businessmen who closed their stores in Damascus and Aleppo were still unemployed (abroad), in contrast with the excellent livings they had in Syria," Tishreen said.

None of the Syrian Jews had immigrated to Israel, the paper said. "Their contacts at home are unbroken and some are thinking of coming back."

Young Somalis used to the rule of the might in the country for several years now find themselves living through belated trauma of their experience

## Kuwait says more troops to deploy on Iraq border

KUWAIT (R) — Greek, Armenian and Bangladeshi troops will deploy along the Kuwait-Iraq border in the next few weeks to help the United Nations guarantee the recently demarcated land-and-sea frontier, a Kuwaiti official said.

Suleiman Al Shaheen, Foreign Ministry under-secretary, said in a statement to the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Saturday:

"A Greek military team, as well as technicians and soldiers from Argentina and Bangladesh, will arrive in Kuwait in the next few weeks to help in the implementation of U.N. resolutions regarding the demarcation of the

border."

The statement did not say how many troops would be sent.

The U.N. Security Council Thursday issued a new guarantee of the international border between Kuwait and Iraq, saying in a unanimous resolution that the decisions of a U.N. boundary commission which recently completed its work were final.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and claimed it as its 19th province. A U.S.-backed alliance of Western and Arab armies drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991.

The U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), which

has 247 lightly-armed military observers stationed in the demilitarised zone along the 207-kilometre land border, said it had no official notice of the imminent arrivals.

A spokesman said UNIKOM was still waiting for a mechanised battalion of 775 soldiers and support staff the U.N. Security Council decided in February to reinforce UNIKOM's observer mission.

The U.S. earlier this year decided to extend UNIKOM's mandate to permit it to take physical action to prevent small-scale incursions into the demilitarised zone.

Media reports have said the 775 reinforcements had not been sent because no country had expressed readiness to provide the units. But the UNIKOM spokesman said: "Nothing has been dropped, we are still waiting for the battalion."

The spokesman said he could not say if the reported arrivals constituted the UNIKOM reinforcements mandated by the U.N.

Kuwait also says 620 nationals who went missing during the crisis are in Iraq, along with up to 200 third country nationals who had been living in Kuwait. Iraq denies holding any Kuwaitis.

## Israel approves Libyan pilgrimage

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Sunday that it would for the first time permit a pilgrimage by about 200 Muslims from Libya, officially at war with the Jewish state.

Tourism ministry spokeswoman Michal Cohen said the pilgrims, now in Cairo, would arrive from Egypt by the Rafah crossing point to the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

"This is first time that Libyan pilgrims are arriving in Israel," Ms. Cohen said.

She said it was unclear when the pilgrims would arrive but the ministry was planning for a three-day visit, mainly to Muslim holy sites.

Israeli officials played down any suggestion of a breakthrough in relations but hoped the visit, arranged by a private tourism company, would prompt further Muslim pilgrimages from Arab countries.

Israeli newspapers said Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi apparently hoped the gesture would improve relations with the United States, Israel's closest ally.

The United States and Britain are pressuring Libya to hand over for trial two Libyan men suspected of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland.

"We began it as a religious pilgrimage and nothing else," Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Eviatar Manor said.

"They've asked to make a pilgrimage to their holy places in Jerusalem. We've always said we shall keep open all the religious places to all the religions. We are keeping to our word," he said.

Mr. Manor said Washington had not objected to the Libyan visit when told about it by the Israelis.

## Resistance fires rockets at 'security zone,' Israel, allies shell village

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli and allied forces pounded a South Lebanon ridge on Sunday after guerrillas fired rockets at a militia post, security sources said.

They said seven Katyusha rockets targeted the South Lebanon Army (SLA) position at Sojoud hill on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

SLA and Israeli gunners retaliated by firing more than 50 heavy artillery shells into Iqlim Al Tuffah, a mountainous ridge to the north where pro-Iranian Hizbullah guerrillas are active.

There were no reports of casualties in the exchanges. Guerrillas have in recent weeks stepped up their attacks on Israeli and SLA forces in the 15-kilometre deep zone, killing two Israeli soldiers and four militiamen this month.

Sources said none of the SLA militiamen manning the Sojoud position was hurt in Sunday's attack.

Hizbullah released a statement claiming responsibility for Sunday's attack on Sojoud.

The communiqué said "a large number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded."

Hizbullah, which like Iran has vowed to sabotage the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process, is the principal among several Palestinian and Lebanese groups engaged in a guerrilla warfare to dislodge Israel from the "security zone."

Israel carved out the 1,100-square-kilometre security zone in 1985 to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The zone is routinely patrolled by 1,500 Israeli troops and 3,000 SLA militiamen.

Alsheikh were captured Feb. 17, 1986, when Lebanese guerrillas ambushed their patrol in the "security zone."

The Shiite Muslim, Syrian-backed Amal militia said May 17 that the previous releases came after the party had allowed the ICRC to examine the bodies of two Israeli soldiers the group claimed it held.

But autopsy results announced Thursday by the Israeli military command showed the bodies were not those of the Israeli soldiers.

Israel has been seeking the return of six servicemen missing in Lebanon. All but one, Ron Arad, are believed dead.

Zachary Baume, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz disappeared June 11, 1982, the fifth day of Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Yossi Fink and Rahamim

helps the 1,500 Israeli troops that police the "security zone."

The Iranian-backed Hizbullah, which claimed the abduction of Fink and Alsheikh, has demanded the release of all the Khami prisoners in exchange for the

corpses.

The SLA says at least 12 of its militiamen are held by Hizbullah and has demanded that they be included in any swap accord.

Arad, who was captured Oct. 16, 1986, after his jet was shot down over South Lebanon, is believed held by Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in east Lebanon.

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which claimed the abduction of Fink and Alsheikh, has demanded the release of all the Khami prisoners in exchange for the

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## Cabinet profiles

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are profiles of the Cabinet ministers that were unavailable at press time Saturday evening.



Bassam Al Saket

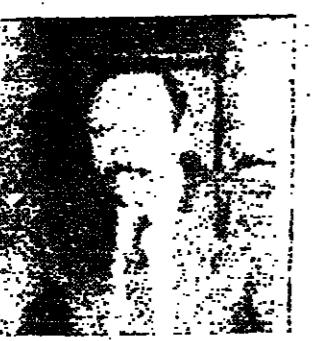
**Minister of Industry and Trade** Bassam Al Saket was born in Salt in 1944. He received a bachelors degree in economics and political science from Baghdad University in 1966. In 1976 he obtained a doctorate from Oxford University. He assumed senior government posts, including Director of Research at the Central Bank of Jordan, Director of the Royal Scientific Society's Economic Department and Economic Adviser to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Dr. Saket also served as Director General of the Pension Fund, Secretary General of the Royal Court and Minister of Agriculture. He was also appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Cement Factories Company, a post which he retained until his appointment Saturday. Dr. Saket authored several studies and published research papers on foreign aid to Jordan and science and technology in Jordan. He is an active member on the boards of various economics and educational institutions, including the CBI, the World Affairs Council, the American National University's Board of Trustees and the Washington-based International Development Association.

Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan



**Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment** Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan was born at Neinah in the Irbid government in 1936. He obtained a bachelors degree in economics at the American University of Beirut in 1965, worked at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and obtained master's and doctorate degrees in economy from Birmingham University. Dr. Farhan served in several positions including Deputy Director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) in 1984. He later served as Director General of the Social Security Corporation, Director General of the Customs Department and Director General of the Jordanian Investments Corporation until his appointment as minister.

Salameh Hammad



**Minister of Interior** Salameh Hammad was born in Rmeili, Jizh district in 1944. He obtained bachelors degree in law from Baghdad, a diploma of public administration from Paris and a diploma of local administration from the Sorbonne University. Before his appointment as minister, Mr. Hammad worked as Minister of Interior Secretary General from 1989. Mr. Hammad headed special committee in 1990 to look after the evacuees. He held senior posts at the Ministry of Interior, including sub-district governor, district governor of Aqaba, Director of the Nationality and Foreigners Department at the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Hammad supervised the 1989 parliamentary elections and served on the membership of several ministerial committees, such as the Awqaf council and the state property committees. Mr. Hammad was awarded Jordan's Independence and Kawakib Medals of the Second Order.



Radi Ibrahim

**Minister of Supply** Radi Ibrahim was born in Kitem, Irbid in 1942. He obtained his bachelors degree in commerce from Cairo University in 1965. He served as Karak governor from 1992 until he was named Minister of Supply Saturday. Mr. Ibrahim also worked as Secretary General of the Supply Ministry from 1989 until 1992. He also held senior posts at the Ministries of Industry and Trade and Supply. Mr. Ibrahim was awarded Jordan's Al Kawakib Medal of the Third Order.

Tareq Suheimat



**Minister of Communications** Tareq Suheimat was born in Karak in 1936. He holds a degree in medicine from London. In 1962 he joined the Armed Forces Medical Services. Dr. Suheimat established the Kidney Transplant Unit at Hussein Medical Centre, remained its director until 1987 when he left the Armed Forces as a Major General to a private clinic. Dr. Suheimat received Jordan's Independence and Kawakib Medals of the Second Order and the Medal of Military Merit of the First Order for his medical achievements.

Khaled Al Omari



**Minister of Education and Higher Education** Khaled Al Omari was born in Deir Yousif in Irbid in 1942. He obtained a bachelors degree in mathematics from the American University of Beirut in 1964, and a doctorate in educational management and supervision in 1977. He worked as a teacher of mathematics at the Ministry of Education schools, a school headmaster and school supervisor in Maan, Jarash and Amman from 1964 to 1974. In 1977 he was appointed principal of Huwwara Community College for one year, then joined Yarmouk University as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education. Later Dr. Omari headed the Development and Planning Department. He also became director of Admission and Registration and then director of the Continuing Education and Community Development Department at the university. Later he headed the Students Affairs Department. Dr. Omari was a visiting scholar of Wisconsin University in 1986 and later at Kuwait University. He served as an educational advisor in several Arab countries.



Khaled Al Zoubi

**Minister of State for Legal Affairs** Khaled Al Zoubi was born in Ramtha in 1944. He obtained a bachelors and master's degrees from Cairo University in 1968 and 1970. In 1984, he received a doctorate in law from Ein Shams University. Dr. Al Zoubi worked as Provincial Governor at the Interior Ministry in 1971 and as a district governor at the ministry until 1985. He joined the University of Jordan's teaching staff and became Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Law and later headed the General Law Department for about two years. He worked as part-time legal consultant at the Foreign Ministry from 1985 until 1991. Dr. Zoubi authored several books on law, including many laws and legislations in force at the Ministries of Interior and Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Bassam Kakish

**Minister of Water and Irrigation** Bassam Kakish was born in Salt in 1934. He joined the Jordanian Armed Forces in 1951, received masters degree in military sciences from Taiwan in 1952, served as Commander of the Royal Engineering Corp from 1973-1975 and later served at Army Headquarters as Assistant to the Army Chief of Staff for Planning, and as Inspector General of the Armed Forces. He retired in 1984 and worked as a Director General of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and then President of the Jordanian Ports Corporation in 1986, later he became President of the Aqaba Region Authority.

Khalaf Hawari

**Minister of Housing and Public Works** Khalaf Hawari was born in Karak in 1941. He graduated from Baghdad University with a bachelors degree in civil engineering in 1965. He joined the Royal Engineering Corp, for some time and worked as a construction engineer at the Ministry of Public Works from 1966 to 1969. Mr. Hawari headed the Maintenance and Traffic Department at the Ministry of Public Works during the period 1973-1982. He also served as Director of Public Works Departments in Karak, Balqa and Amman from 1982 until 1984. He later was named Minister of Public Works' Undersecretary, a post which he retained from 1985 until 1989.



**Islamic sciences academy to assess upgrading of its publications programme**

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Council of the Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), the academy's executive body, is scheduled to meet in Amman next month with the participation of delegates from Pakistan, Morocco, Indonesia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Egypt as well as Jordan, said a recent statement.

The meeting, which will last for four days, said the IAS statement, is designed to assess the overall academy plan of action for 1993, including the planned convening of the seventh IAS conference, entitled, "Health, Nutrition and Development in the Islamic World," in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1993.

The statement said the council will also assess ways and means of

upgrading the programme of the academy, particularly in the area of technical publications.

This is aimed at enabling the scientists and technologists in the 50 or so Islamic states to have access to appropriate media through which their technical research papers can be published, the statement explained.

The IAS describes itself as an independent, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit organisation of distinguished scientists and technologists dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of science and technology in the Islamic World.

The government of Jordan hosts the IAS in Amman, where the headquarters of the academy started functioning in April 1987.

## Jordan observes No-Tobacco Day

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan along with the other nations of the world Monday May 31 observes No-Tobacco Day under the slogan "Health Services: Our Window to a Tobacco-Free World."

On the eve of the occasion, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas stressed the need for the public to realise the health hazards of smoking and abstain from the habit.

"We can not order people not to smoke, but we would rather demand that smokers not endan-

ger the health of non-smokers," said Dr. Malhas.

He said "our advice is: quit smoking in order to protect your health and the health of others."

Zabeir Malhas, president of the National Jordanian Anti-smoking Society, said he was dismayed at the lack of enforcement of the 1977 law which bans smoking in public places.

Nearly 50 per cent of Jordanian doctors are smokers and by smoking they set bad example for others, Dr. Malhas added.

The society appeals to pharmacists, doctors, nurses and hospital staff to join in its campaign to stem

the tobacco habit in Jordan, said Dr. Malhas.

It is regrettable to see the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) failing to respond to the society's repeated calls to take action and positive measures in support of the society's endeavours, Dr. Malhas added.

Paying tribute to Royal Jordanian (RJ) for banning smoking on some of its flights, Dr. Malhas said the national airline was the first among the airlines of the region to introduce the measure.

Referring to the situation in the western countries, Dr. Malhas said that smoking is now banned

in most public places.

Although the rate of smokers among doctors in the West 25 years ago stood at 55 per cent, it now runs at seven per cent in the United States, Dr. Malhas said.

Noting that the society was joining the Ministry of Health to fight the smoking habit through seminars and public awareness campaigns, he expressed hope that the 1977 law prohibiting smoking in public places will be enforced to protect the health of non-smokers.

Dr. Malhas said that under the law fines ranging from JD 10 to JD 200 would be imposed on violators.



## A No-Tobacco Day message

By Hussein A. Gezairy

THE SMOKING problem has become one of the major public health problems throughout the world. This is recognised by many people, but greater numbers tend to ignore it.

Between the two camps a battle rages on, attitudes polarise and resources and capabilities are mobilised.

In almost every country of the world there is an association of some form or another dedicated to saving mankind from the long list of dangers to their health which smoking represents.

On the other side, the tobacco companies continue to mobilise all their resources, and spend billions of dollars annually to promote their harmful product, paying little heed to the health risks to which smokers and those in close proximity to them are exposed.

What is more, very powerful and influential interests are actively engaged in promoting this habit through highly appealing advertisements, aggressive marketing and false statements. Such interests scoring significant successes.

Confirmed figures show that tobacco consumption in the Eastern Mediterranean region has more than doubled in recent years. This indicates that promotion and marketing campaigns organised by tobacco companies are winning large numbers of new recruits every day.

The vast majority of these fact that smoking is a real tragedy to the individual and the community. A smoker actually buys with his/her money a product that is the direct cause of nine out of every 10 cases of lung cancer throughout the world, and no less than one third of all types of cancer.

It also causes about one quarter of all cases of cardiovascular diseases. In addition, it accounts for a high percentage of cases of bronchitis and emphysema.

The loss through smoking incurred by the community is incalculable. It is paid out of people's health and loss of life.

Hence, those of us who are

engaged in health protection and promotion feel that it is our duty to utilise every opportunity to enhance people's awareness of the dangers of tobacco and its toxic contents.

We also need to seek the help of every one who has the interests of humanity at heart so that we work together in fighting the smoking habit.

Together we can consolidate a new social attitude which disapproves of smoking and recognises that smokers must be helped to free themselves from the shackles of their harmful habit.

Doctors and others who work in the health sector have a special status in so far as smoking is concerned.

To start with, they are the product of their communities and subject to all influences that operate in those communities.

Since the vast majority of smokers begin to smoke at an early age, significant proportion of medical students would have been smoking for some time before taking up their studies.

Perhaps we should recall that smoking was for a long-time considered a "mark of high social position. Hence, the smoking habit spread widely within the medical and health sector.

Nevertheless, doctors and health workers have been the first to be alerted to the smoking problem and to appreciate its dangers. They are the first to receive the results of research and other studies which provide clear indicators of the very serious

why do you profess what you do not practice? It is most odious in God's sight that you should do one thing and do another."

In order to remove that contradiction, doctors and those who work in the health field should dedicate themselves to the cause of combatting smoking.

In addition, it is imperative that hospitals, health centres, private clinics, medical, nursing and dental schools, pharmacies and all centres which provide diagnostic, curative or physiotherapy services should always be tobacco-free.

Doctors and health workers should also bring habits in line with their leading role.

All sections of society look up to them as the example to be followed in everything that relates to health. Hence, it is only natural that doctors and health workers should be in the forefront of the fight against smoking.

Recognising the importance of the role that can be played by doctors and health workers, and their influence in moulding the social attitude to smoking, the World Health Organisation has chosen the health services to provide the theme for the World No-Tobacco Day this year.

We hope that this choice will start a new era of tobacco-free health services that take the lead towards our noble goal of a world in which tobacco goes out of existence.

The writer is regional director of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

## Crimes drop

AMMAN (J.T.) — The crime rate dropped by 12 per cent in Jordan during the last week of May, compared with the previous week, and the decline was mainly attributable to a lower number of car thefts and robberies, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

A PSD statistical report issued Sunday said that between May 22 and 28 a total of 192 crimes occurred in the country compared to 217 the previous week.

Four murders were reported: two were said to be related to moral issues and the other two were reported as results of family feuds.

Two incidents of festive firings resulted in the injury of two persons last week.

The report said 120 robberies and thefts occurred, including a case telephone cable theft in Maan Governorate.

Rabin says coalition crisis near end

(Continued from page 1) broader powers and a larger budget for Ms. Aloni, including control of Israel's main state-owned television channel, media reports said.

An outside possibility would be Mr. Rabin resigning his post, political analysts said.



The idea remained in limbo. "The entire Labour Party is prostrating itself before a party that is not Zionist," Ms. Aloni asserted on the radio, noting an incident last week where Rabbi Yosef failed to stand up during the national anthem.

Behind-the-scenes, Meretz members were negotiating for

opening "Scandal Discotheque The Atmosphere Creators You'll Find it The best Discotheque in town" at the San Rock Hotel, Tel: 81380017.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King receives 'Eid messages

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables from Arab and foreign heads of states as well as senior Jordanian officials on the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha. They wished the King continued good health and happiness and wished the people of Jordan further progress and prosperity.

### Royal artillery to fire 'Eid guns

AMMAN (Petra) — On the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha the Royal Artillery Corps will fire Eid guns in different governorates, according to an announcement by the Jordanian Armed Forces Headquarters. It said the guns will be fired Monday and throughout the feast days.

### Pilgrims have 3 days bridge-crossing priority

AMMAN (Petra) — Pilgrims returning from the holy places in Mecca and heading for the Israeli-occupied Arab lands can make the trip on June 6, 7 and 8, the three days when they will give priority in crossing to the West Bank, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). It said that returning pilgrims should report to the Pilgrims City at Ghor Nimein in the Jordan Valley at least one night before leaving for the West Bank. Those who wish to stay behind to visit relatives in Jordan will have to follow the normal procedures of registering their names with the police offices to cross at a later date, the PSD said.

### Passport office will stay open

AMMAN (Petra) — The Passport and Civil Status Department will remain open during the 'Eid Al Adha holiday to issue temporary passports for those wishing to visit the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and for emergency cases. The department said a team of employees will handle the procedures between Monday and Thursday, but not all employees will be on duty.

# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

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## Political culture, not curfews or muzzling

IT IS good news from Algiers that the ruling High State Committee has reaffirmed its drive to pursue a national dialogue with various political groups in the country, except notably with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) with which it is locked in a bloody battle since early last year. Dialogue, no matter how protracted, indeed is the key to solving thorny political problems, and we hope the FIS and other groups which are staying away from the national conference for their own reasons would find some incentive in engaging the regime in negotiations rather than defiance. But the chances for such incentives seem to fade away in view of the bad news that the security forces have extended strict curfews and related measures to six other districts. Granted that stern actions have to be taken while fighting an armed insurgency, but curfews and the like are reminders of an ever-present crisis and emergency which do not bode well in any effort to gain the confidence of the people.

The most striking feature in the Algerian equation, however, is the option of the regime to pursue confrontation rather than accommodation with the so-called Islamic extremists represented by the FIS. If the idea is to root out the FIS altogether, then there is little chance of success since it is clear that the group is well-entrenched in the Algerian society and has strong roots in terms of popular support.

If indeed the high state committee is true to its promise that democracy would be reintroduced in Algeria sooner or later, then the key question is what kind of a democracy will that be which does not have a slot for a group which, by and large, represents a large segment of the people as proved by last year's elections.

At the same time, the people who staged large street demonstrations in Algiers last month come mostly from the working class with no definite political affiliations or ideologies. They were only demanding their right to secure living conditions which the regime does not seem to be able to offer, what with the curfews, and other measures evident in the show of strength through the introduction of crack units patrolling the streets in armoured personnel carriers.

In essence, the High State Committee could blame no one but itself for the growing militancy of the so-called extremists since continued strife and confrontation with them would only create further support for them among the people who need not necessarily see them as militants but as heroes fighting a self-serving system characterised by corruption and inefficiency.

The only way to achieve a balanced political system is through creating a political culture in the society and raising the awareness of the people of the dangers or the advantages inherent in the ideologies of any specific group in terms of personal freedoms and choices. Curfews and shows of strength and curbs on the freedom of the press could not bring that about.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

KING HUSSEIN has charted the path of the new government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and defined the broadlines of the new government's policies which reflect Jordan's position at the domestic and external levels, said Al Dostour Arabic daily Sunday. The paper reiterated the King's directives that the new government will be entrusted with the mission of organising the coming elections in November. In his letter to Mr. Majali, King Hussein emphasised a number of facts, particularly with regard to the country's orientation towards democracy, political pluralism and respect of human rights, said the paper. It said that King Hussein was careful to stress the need for the government to give due attention to the development of public administration and to the cultural, educational, health and other economic and social institutions. But there is no doubt that the government's priority will now go to the preparation for the parliamentary elections which, the King has stressed, should be fair and free so that it can reflect a true image of democracy in Jordan, added the paper. In light of the King's letter to Mr. Majali, said the paper, the Jordanians now look forward to a dynamic executive authority that would offer Jordanians equal opportunities and ensure the embodiment of the rule of the law in all domains.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily expressed support of the Vatican's stand vis-a-vis Israel, noting that this attitude conforms to the spiritual principles of the Holy See. We hope that the Vatican will stand firm by its decision not to recognise Israel until the latter recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their national homeland, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that the Vatican is not concerned with political gains, it is rather directing its attention to ensuring the human rights of the oppressed people and equality among all people on earth, contrary to the Zionist dogma which gives Jews preference to all other people on earth. The Vatican, which led the campaign to free East Europe from communism, is now siding by the rights of the Palestinians who have been oppressed and brutalised by the aggressors, the writer continued. We sincerely hope that the Vatican will under no circumstances and regardless of any political pressure change its principled stand until the Palestinians regain their rights, said the writer. What is needed from the world community, he said, is to follow the footsteps of the Vatican, insists on the Israelis' ending their occupation and recognising the rights of the Palestinian people and to use all measures to guarantee this right.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

## The U.S. needs a strong leader to pull the world along

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has goofed and fumbled on several domestic and international issues. The handling of the Bosnian conflict where the president proved indecisive, undermined his credibility and clout both locally and externally. This weightlessness of the new U.S. president is eroding the prestige and influence of the U.S.

At a time when the world is yearning for a decisive leadership from the White House, what it got were confused, vacillating and meek signals. The international community has, as a result, no choice except to interpret them as clear signs that under President Clinton, the U.S. is simplyudderless and aimless.

The president is increasingly appearing as a one-term chief executive; unless a miracle or two happen, his character, backbone and decision-making ability are not going to be redeemed soon.

On the foreign level, Mr. Clinton was offered several occasions to prove his abilities and strength. He failed miserably on Bosnia and appears to be heading for additional setbacks over other international and regional hot spots, including the Middle East if (or when) the peace process comes to naught.

What started as a joke on the root cause for Mr. Clinton's weakness, namely that Mrs. Clinton is pulling the strings in Washington and not the president, appears to be gaining serious grounds.

It is common knowledge that Mrs. Clinton is a strong, capable woman, with a clear agenda in her mind. Some observers say her obsession with a national health master plan is what prevents President Clinton from focussing attention on conflicts and issues that the majority of the country and nations would like him to pay attention to in an effective way.

There was great promise and optimism when Mr. Clinton was elected last November. Many of us associated him with the late charismatic president, John Kennedy. Mr. Clinton said many things with such conviction and confidence that he convinced the world he was sincere, serious and capable enough the honour his political platform.

What exactly went wrong is something that only President Clinton himself can answer. But whatever the real reasons for Mr. Clinton's increasing fatigue and impotence, he must strive to reverse the tide against him before this trend becomes irreversible.

There are several options left available for the president to rectify the negative picture he reflects. First, he must show like all his predecessors that he can pull Europe behind him on disputes and conflicts that require leadership from him.

On Bosnia, he was kicked around by his European partners in such a way that he looked as the led party instead of the leading power.

By allowing, or appearing, to be outsmarted, outwitted and outmanoeuvred by even his closest allies, Mr. Clinton downgraded the clout of his nation to a dangerously low level. The U.S. president has to talk and act tougher with the nations of the world. His mission is not exactly to look and act as a nice and gentle guy.

The Middle East situation offers the White House another opportunity to redeem itself. Thus far, President Clinton appears indifferent to the peace process between various Arab parties and Israel. He does not even raise his voice or look the negotiating parties in the eyes. Mr. Clinton is so lukewarm on the Arab-Israeli negotiations that it makes one want to scream. We do not want an anger-free U.S. president. We want a strong president.

We, in the Middle East, want a strong U.S. president. The whole world needs a strong man in the White House. No one wants an oscillating chief executive in Washington who fumbles or falls down every time he clashes with opposition, whether domestic or external.

The latest episode on trade with China, where after weeks of threats from Washington that China's most favoured nation status would be withdrawn unless the human rights situation there improves to the satisfaction of the U.S., reveals that there is a pattern in Mr. Clinton's behaviour that suggests that under minimum pressure he simply crumbles. That pattern started with the Haitian refugee problem and continues unabated. While we in Jordan may not agree with Washington that Peking's human rights record leaves much to be desired, we are concerned about the effect of this personal profile of Mr. Clinton on the peace process in the Middle East and the Balkan region.

There is hope that there is another side to President Clinton that has yet to reveal itself. For the sake of peace in this area of the world and for the sake of security in the world, we hope that that is the case.

## Coke and human rights — which is the real thing?

By Goenawan Mohammad

JAKARTA — Each era poses its own questions. The basic question of today: Are human rights the same as Coca-Cola?

The reply, of course, depends on many factors. The response of Indonesians will vary according to their positions in society, the likely consequences of what they say, or the inclination toward a political career. Take your choice:

A. Human rights are the same as Coca-Cola. Both are foreign products for "any time, any place." Both are exports and part of "foreign cultural imperialism" seeking to infiltrate our country, which since the collapse of the Soviet Union, has become the fourth most populous on earth. So Coke and human rights should be rejected.

B. Human rights must be differentiated from Coca-Cola. But Indonesia is a market-oriented economy. Coca-Cola is a beverage enjoyed by many — if they have the money to buy it. Therefore it should be advertised unreservedly in Indonesia. Human rights, on the other hand, should be carefully scrutinised, or even rejected, because they may not be proper for our culture and thus for our consumption.

Indonesians are different, it seems, from Indians. Under Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who was famous for his simple life-style, India rejected Coca-Cola, and the famous American company could not invest there (although that has changed recently). At the same time, under Mr. Desai's leadership, respect for human rights was restored — maybe because this was needed more than "the Real Thing."

However, protection of human rights is not something that can be forced upon a country from the outside. The human rights advocacy of the United States may have good motives but America is a superpower. As such it cannot easily be accepted as a moral power, instead it will tend to be seen as a bully projecting a Flash Gordon image.

Flash, of course, was a white

superhero who flies to weird places in outer space to liberate the people of Mongo from the tyranny of Ming.

(A serious-minded French commentator once suggested that it was not without reason that the creator of Flash Gordon painted Ming's skin yellow, since Ming symbolised an Oriental despot).

The universality of human rights remains problematical. Yet the most blatant abuses, such as torture, mass murder by a state, and expulsion of people from their homes, can certainly be judged through reference to a general consensus that is wider than that of Western culture. This consensus is drawn from the human family, particularly from its basic religious precepts.

Unfortunately, the state is always over us and surrounding us. So there is frequently tension between the state and its citizens. The problem is how to organise this tension so that it can function smoothly, without any drawn out feuds or ongoing lies.

But what about young nations such as Indonesia? There are those who suggest "guided democracy." There are those who say that the answer is "centralised democracy."

A colleague of mine who was not easily impressed by these models told the following parable:

Two boys lived in a house without their parents. One day the older of the two said to his younger brother that the house was going to be run according to a special system of democracy. "Don't be afraid," said the older brother, "you and I will have identical rights."

"Like what, for example?" asked the younger boy.

"Well, it's like this," said the older brother as he climbed up a tree. The younger one was waiting below.

"See," said the older brother, as he spat on his brother's head. "That's my right as the leader. Now you can exercise your right as the subject. Spit on me!" — International Herald Tribune.

## HOUSE BUDGET VOTE

## A shaky start towards recovery

By Gene Gibbons

Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's budget victory in the U.S. House of Representatives provides relief from his political problems, but it may be only temporary relief.

The House, dividing mainly along party lines, ratified Mr. Clinton's economic policy on Thursday night, approving the tax increases and spending cuts that he says are needed to put the economy back on track. The vote was 219 to 213.

The sigh of relief from the president and his advisers was almost audible once the crucial vote was behind them. But it took much White House arm-twisting to ensure the victory.

And approval of the package, which aims to cut the deficit by \$337 billion over five years, was not assured until an eleventh-hour compromise patched over a split within the president's own Democratic Party.

Analysts and officials, citing Iraq and Yugoslavia, said Russia remains diplomatically aligned with the West on major issues, but its support should not be taken for granted.

Mr. Karaganov said Russia's U.N. Security Council veto in May of more money for the peacekeeping operation in Cyprus was less a warning sign than an assertion on independence after excessive obedience to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Analysts and officials, citing Iraq and Yugoslavia, said Russia remains diplomatically aligned with the West on major issues, but its support should not be taken for granted.

The new approach underway Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko's recent trip to Cuba, which he described as part of an effort to "renew economic and trade relations with Mideast countries, India, Cuba and other states that use (Soviet) technologies."

Russia wants to counter western domination of the arms market and cash in on its own weapons industry with deals such as India's purchase of missile technology last year.

Arms sales "will not become our strategic goal and will not

be drafted into the armed forces, tries to surmount a controversial background that dogs him as commander-in-chief.

There is also the problem of how to upgrade the White House staff — a young, largely inexperienced group of former Clinton campaign aides dismissed by critics as "the children".

A string of staff missteps climaxed last week when the president's men and women managed to turn what should have been a routine personnel action — the dismissal of seven low-level White House travel office employees who served at the pleasure of the president — into a scandal.

It led the Republicans to charge that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was being politicised.

"I think this was an exercise in 'amateur hour,'" snorted Democratic Senator Joseph Biden, usually a Clinton ally.

Such embarrassments, as well as Mr. Clinton's own gaffes like his notorious 200 haircut for which areas of the Los Angeles airport had to be closed, have eroded public confidence in the president. His standing in the polls is lower than any of his recent predecessors at an equivalent point.

The White House is currently awash with rumours that a big shakeup is in the offing, but two of those being mentioned as a possible "Mr. fix-it" — John Sasso, an adviser to 1988 Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis, and Harold Ickes, a former Clinton aide — are not without some baggage.

Mr. Sasso was suspended from the Dukakis campaign for a time after he took responsibility for political dirty tricks against Mr. Biden, a Dukakis rival in the Democratic presidential primaries two years ago.

And Mr. Ickes declined a White House job last January after criticism arose about his legal activities for a labour union.

So the house vote, far from a panacea for the president's problems, is at best a shaky start towards recovery.



## Yeltsin shifts policy between West and East

By Thomas Ginsberg

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin's resistance to the U.S. campaign for military intervention in Bosnia stems from growing political pressure to forge a new greater-power status for post-Soviet Russia.

The effort to define Russia as a world power follows more than a year of soul-searching over the president's tilt to the West. It includes a new focus on Asia, the Middle East and former Soviet republics.

The basic course of rapprochement with the West is correct, but it should be more even-handed," said Sergei Karaganov, deputy director of the Institute of Europe and a contributor to the paper.

Also, Russia is trying to strengthen trade relations with such former Soviet friends as Iraq, Cuba and India.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who has been preoccupied with winning western support for Russian reforms, had been expected to be the main victim of the change in course.

Instead, Mr. Kozyrev adapted by sharing policy-making with centrists in the military and parliament, where there is less sympathy for the West.

The most visible result of the shift was Mr. Kozyrev's shuttle diplomacy this month in Europe and the United States on the Yugoslav war. With Russian generals opposed to using military options against those they called their "Serb Orthodox brothers," Kozyrev led efforts to find a peaceful solution.

Other major priorities of the centrists and nationalists are pro-

tectionist relations," said Mikhail Konarovskiy, a policy planner at the Foreign Ministry. He added that Russia would put pressure on North Korea, for example, to abide by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Analysts and officials, citing Iraq and Yugoslavia, said Russia remains diplomatically aligned with the West on major issues, but its support should not be taken for granted.

Russia wants to counter western domination of the arms market and cash in on its own weapons industry with deals such as India's purchase of missile technology last year.

Arms sales "will not become our strategic goal and will not



# Sweltering Kuwait braces for summer dust storms

By William Maclean  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Ask most people what makes summer in Kuwait uncomfortable and the answer won't be the 50 degree celsius (104 degree fahrenheit) heat.

Dust — very fine, abrasive dust — is what prompts people to install air purifiers, wrap shawls over mouth and nose or, if it becomes unbearable, leave the country for a break.

Sand and dust storms are part of desert life, but Gulf residents say Kuwait's are particularly intense.

There is no foolproof way of avoiding the clouds of fine particles apart from stopping work and holidaying abroad — a popular remedy since the advent of oil wealth in the 1960s.

"Nothing is so grim as a sandstorm in Kuwait town during midsummer," British diplomat Harold Dickson wrote in 1936.

"The burning, fiery wind seems

to scour the very eyeballs."

Dusty spells occur sporadically year-round, once or twice a month covering parts of the country of 1.3 million in an eerie yellow or red cloud, blocking out the sun and reducing visibility to less than one kilometre.

But the storms are at their longest — up to a week — and most intense in summer, residents say. At these times visibility can fall to 50 metres. Kuwaiti dust is particularly fine and easily inhaled, so asthmatics and people with other respiratory conditions tend to stay indoors.

Even on "clear" days, a fine layer of dust settles over cars, buildings and onto washing or food left outside.

"We hide indoors," said a Kuwaiti businessman, when asked for his remedy. But staying indoors is not foolproof — dust is sucked into buildings and cars through airconditioning systems.

"The only comforting reflection is that it is 10 times worse

outside," Dickson notes glumly.

Environmentalist Ali Khureibat said most Kuwaitis were resigned to the phenomenon and few wore protective masks like dwellers of smog-bound cities elsewhere in the world and some foreign residents of Kuwait city.

"It's annoying and it does block your nose and chest, so we keep inside the house. If we are outdoors, men use the ghutra (male headdress) to cover our noses," Mr. Khureibat said.

"But you get used to it, just like the people of northern Europe get used to snow and rain."

Some Kuwaitis expect less severe dust this summer because unusually lengthy spring rains have produced extensive desert vegetation that binds the sand and makes it wind resistant.

But others say the increased movement of military vehicles dating from the 1990/91 Gulf

crisis, including post-war military exercises Kuwait continues to conduct with its allies, has ploughed up crusty topsoil and made the dust more mobile.

About four spells of extensive dust storms lasting up to a week each occur normally during the dust "high season" in June and July, according to the Meteorological Department of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Sand, heavier than dust, is rarely lifted more than a few feet off the ground. The lighter dust is lifted thousands of feet into the sky.

"In the last dust storm we had three or four days ago it was very heavy on the respiratory system. I had a very hard night," said Fatima Abdali, a researcher at the Environmental Health Sciences Department of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

Ms. Abdali, who is preparing to start a study on the possible chronic effects of the 1991 oilfield

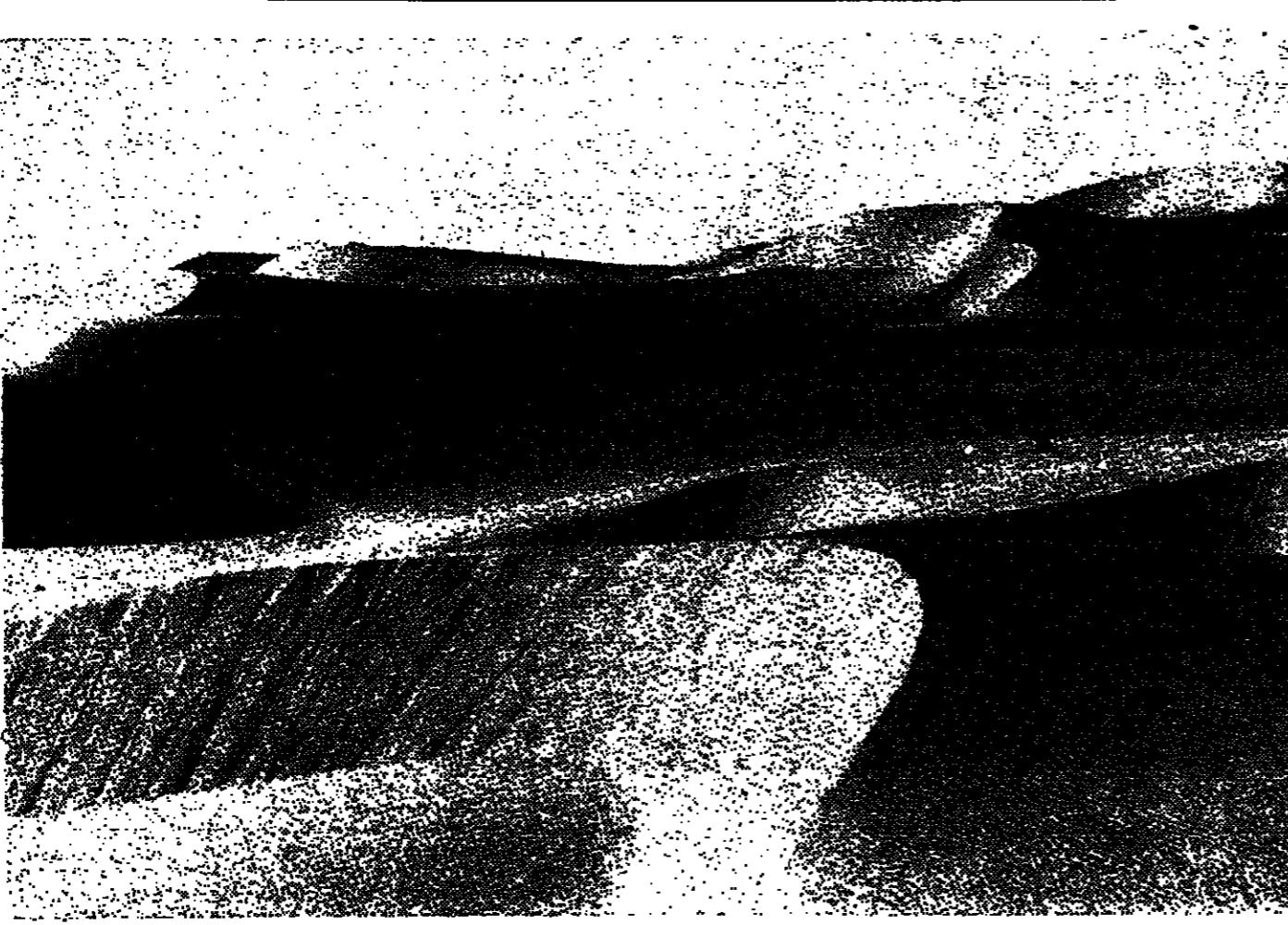
fires on residents' health, says more analysis of the dust needed to be done to ensure it contained no harmful levels of residue from the fires.

"No one wears any kind of masks. This is the problem here," she said.

"People feel the threat is to be immediate and fatal for them to wear such things, so it's very hard for them to be convinced that during dusty times you have to wear a mask, especially for people susceptible to respiratory disease."

The blazing wells torched by fleeing Iraqi occupation troops spewed potentially toxic materials such as lead, nickel, vanadium and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon chemicals into the atmosphere and onto the desert.

The material would dissipate over time "but nobody can tell how long that will take without further surveying," Ms. Abdali said.



Wind-blown sand dunes like these are the source of very fine, abrasive dust that pervades the whole environment during sandstorms (File photo)

## Amsterdam school buildings sinking into canals

By Caroline Smith  
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Amsterdam's famous canal-side houses, which tilt and lean alarmingly over the water, may look on the verge of collapse but they are among the safest buildings in a sinking city.

The ornately-gabled canal houses, many of which date back to the 16th century, were built on solid natural ground.

But the centuries-long Dutch battle against the sea is now taking its toll on tens of thousands of other buildings, erected in a frenzy of construction between the two world wars.

These newer houses, ringing Amsterdam's circular city centre, were built on reclaimed land and supported by wooden pilings.

A new report says they are in danger of subsiding and urgent action is needed to shore them up if Amsterdam is to avoid the same fate as Venice which is sinking below the water line.

Despite the ground is not strong enough to support them, 20,000 to 40,000 buildings will have to be demolished if their foundations are not repaired, the report says.

Amsterdam was founded in the early 13th century when the first dams were built to protect it from floods. But the area was regularly flooded over hundreds of years, leaving a soft peat layer which prevented usual building methods.

From the 15th century buildings were supported on wooden pilings dug deep into the ground.

The royal palace, built on the main dam in the 17th century as the city hall, rests on 13,659 wooden poles.

Concrete replaced wood after World War II and pilings are now sunk as deep as 60 metres into the ground.

By the mid-17th century the concrete ring of canals around the city centre was complete. The tall, narrow buildings have survived unscathed for 300 years.

But after the inner area of natural ground was fully inhabited land had to be reclaimed further out.

Dutch architect Hendrik Berlage drew up one of Amsterdam's extension plans, approved by the city council in 1917. He is renowned for the stock exchange building which he designed in 1896, the precursor of the so-called Amsterdam school of architecture.

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## Economy

### Japan's battered brokers predict solid return to the black this year

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's big four securities firms have forecast a solid return to profitability in the current year following one of the most dismal performances in the history of the country's stock-brokering industry.

But analysts said profitability in the current year would depend on turnover on the Tokyo Stock Exchange which plunged to a daily average of less than 250 billion yen in the latest year, down from 354 billion yen a year earlier.

The projections followed announcements of better-than-expected results by industry leaders Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. and third-ranked Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. Nomura's pre-tax earnings plunged 95 per cent to 2.4 billion yen (\$21 million) while Nikko's profit dropped 19.4 per cent to 2.5 billion yen.

But Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd. and Yamaichi Securities Co. Ltd. suffered bigger-than-expected losses. Second-ranked Daiwa incurred a pre-tax loss of 7.3 billion yen, reversing a profit of 9.3 billion yen. Yamaichi, ranked fourth, saw its losses widen two per cent to 37.4 billion yen.

Hit by sharp declines in commission revenue arising from reduced stockmarket turnover, Nomura, Daiwa and Yamaichi had all projected losses for the year in their most recent estimates with only Nikko expecting to break even.

Ten of Japan's second-tier securities firms also announced losses led by Kanku Securities Co. Ltd. with a pre-tax loss of 51 billion yen.

Yamatane Securities Co. Ltd., which suffered a loss of 10.4 billion yen, meanwhile announced the resignations of 14 top executives including chair-

man Sadao Hashimoto and president Shotaro Seki following a series of scandals. A new president has been named from Sakura Bank Ltd., the company's main banker.

For the current year, Nomura forecast pre-tax earnings of 70 billion yen while Daiwa and Nikko both projected profits of 60 billion yen. Following two years of steep losses, Yamaichi projected earnings of 40 billion yen.

The Big Four are also projecting increased revenue in the current year following declines of around 20 per cent in the year to March, mainly as a result of reduced commission revenue triggered by decreased trading volume.

The four leading brokers, which rely on commission revenue for almost two thirds of their turnover, have recently been encouraged by a strong rebound in trading volume to an average of 630 billion yen a day in April.

Kazumasa Niimi, senior economist at the Japan Research Institute, said even smaller securities companies would return to the black if average daily volume exceeded 500 billion yen a day in the current year.

But if it falls below 400 billion yen a day, he said losses were likely at two of the Big Four as well as the smaller companies.

Mr. Niimi said relatively strong earnings from bond trading last year were unlikely to be repeated. "No broker will be able to make a big hit here this year," he said, referring to fading hopes for further interest rate cuts after the rebound in share prices amid expectations that the economy has bottomed.

### OECD sees rough sailing ahead for Iceland

PARIS (AFP) — Iceland, smallest among the 24 economies grouped in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), faces another year of recession this year and a "distinctly unfavourable" outlook for 1994, too, the OECD said.

Output could fall off by a further 1.8 per cent in 1993 after a 3.3 per cent drop in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1992, it said in its annual survey of the Icelandic economy.

The survey foresees a turnaround to modestly positive growth of about 1.0 per cent next year, with Iceland "possibly benefiting from a recovery in export markets and...early gains from European integration," due to receive a boost from the European Economic Area (EEA) accord.

It attributed the country's poor short-term outlook mainly to a deterioration of cod stocks entailing severe cutbacks in catch quotas.

Other major causes included waning demand and sliding prices for aluminium and ferro-silicon, the other top two export products, and the impact of tight macro-economic policies required to cut public deficits and control inflation.

The OECD said authorities must now seek to "consolidate the success they have had in ridding the economy of its inflationary and public-sector excesses," noting that inflation was at a 20-year low by the end of 1992.

Inflation might temporarily rise to some three per cent this year because of higher import prices in the wake of a six per cent devaluation last November of Ice-

land's krona against a "basket" consisting of the European ECU, the dollar and the yen. But prices should be broadly stable next year, the OECD said.

It said a commitment to a stable exchange rate was essential to maintaining price and wage stability and a steady reduction of current high real interest rates.

"Any further currency devaluation might well serve to slow the inevitable process of rationalisation confronting the fisheries, thereby perpetuating the volatility of the economy which is caused by its lack of diversification," OECD economists said.

Fish and fish products have recently accounted for up to 80 per cent of the export earnings of the rugged and misty North Atlantic island republic, which has a population of 260,000 for an area nearly one-fifth that of France, with three-quarters covered by glaciers and barren volcanic rock.

The crisis in the fisheries sector was due to many years of overfishing of cod and recent unfavourable environmental conditions, and would probably require further cuts in cod in the catch in a bid to ensure stock rebuilding.

The crisis has doubled Iceland's normally low jobless rate to nearly five per cent last year, the OECD noted, adding that the rate might rise further to a more than 50-year peak of just over six per cent in 1994.

This could affect households' willingness to spend, while high interest rates and excess capacity might hold back any marked rebound in private consumption and investment for another year or so, the OECD said.

### Publi-Graphics represents Young & Rubicam in the Middle East

Young & Rubicam Inc. will be represented by the Middle East advertising agency, Publi-Graphics, in that region of the world under an agreement announced jointly today. The announcement was made by Ingo Krauss, chairman and chief executive officer, Y & R Europe and Mustapha Assad, president and chief executive officer of Public-Graphics. The agreement is effective May 1st, 1993. "Publi-Graphics repeatedly has demonstrated why it is the leading professional agency in the region," commented Mr. Krauss. "We have witnessed the agency's outstanding talent and creativity for many years, having worked together on a variety of assignments. This new relationship will be a major asset in meeting all our clients' communications needs." Mr. Assad said: "We are deeply appreciative of the confidence placed in us by Young & Rubicam, and it is indeed a privilege for Publi-Graphics to represent such a leading worldwide agency." Publi-Graphics, founded in 1973, is the leading communications group in the Middle East. It will provide Young & Rubicam a Middle East agency network that includes offices in Amman, Bahrain, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh and Tehran.

### UAE seeks to boost non-oil industry

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), keen to cut its reliance on imports and diversify its oil-dominated economy, is increasing lending to private investors and trying to match them to promising ideas.

But Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) General Manager Mohammad Abdul Baki said Emirates investors would take time to develop the management and marketing skills needed to plan and execute large-scale industrial projects.

Mr. Abdul Baki said lending from January to May had almost reached total 1992 lending as the bank puts new emphasis on matching investors with embryonic projects ripe for funds.

"Diversifying the UAE economy is clearly an enormous undertaking," he added in a written response to questions from Reuters.

Mr. Abdul Baki said EIB, the UAE's main source for industrial financing, had approved 80.2 million dirhams (\$22 million) for projects in the Gulf Arab state in 1992.

Total funding for new industrial projects rose to 107.8 million dirhams (\$29 million) in 1992 from 100.6 million dirhams (\$27 million) in 1991.

But the local economy still has some problems to overcome.

"These projects are still on the small scale and reflect the limitations imposed by the size of the UAE market," Mr. Abdul Baki

said. "It will take time for private investors in this country to develop the management capability and especially marketing skills to plan and execute large-scale industrial projects."

Mr. Abdul Baki said the bank had extended its role to match investors with industrial projects.

"In addition to our funding activities... the EIB exercises a significant influence in a non-financial capacity," he said.

EIB is 51 per cent owned by the UAE government. The rest is held by eight national banks and five insurance companies.

It is the UAE's facilitator of an Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) programme which extends credits for trade deals which promote UAE exports to other Arab

countries.

Mr. Abdul Baki said the bank bases its lending on import substitution projects which use local resources. In the past two years it funded 41 projects in food, metals, minerals, chemicals, plastics, paper, and manufacturing, he said.

"It will become increasingly important... that industrial projects are able to market their output outside of the UAE as well," he pointed out.

Like other Gulf Arab states, the UAE is largely reliant on food and manufacturing imports from the West and Japan. Imports in Abu Dhabi, the largest oil producer of the seven emirates, topped \$1 billion in the first quarter of 1993.

### S. Arabia sees boom in gasoline additive plants

MANAMA (R) — It is boom time in Saudi Arabia for building plants which produce an additive that makes gasoline burn cleaner.

Worldwide demand for MTBE, a derivative of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), has been projected to triple during this decade and it is plain that the Saudi public and private sector want a major share of the global market.

The latest company to throw its hat into the ring is the Jeddah-based Alujain Corp, which awarded the international engineering firm ABB Lummus Crest Inc. a contract to prepare a feasibility study and implementation plan for an MTBE plant.

The study expects MTBE demand to rise from eight million tonnes in 1991 to 23 million in 2000. The Saudi plants would have capacity representing about one-seventh of world demand by the end of the decade.

The MTBE market currently appears oversupplied in the United States, with the product selling on the spot market for about one-third less than buyers with long-term contracts are paying.

But traders and analysts there say rising demand in 1994 and 1995 will overtake supply, and prices should rise.

The Saudi projects are counting on that.

The contract to ABB Lummus Crest, a U.S. unit of the Swedish-Swiss company ASEA Brown Boveri A.G., requires a "bankable" feasibility study and implementation plan by August — one that can be used to raise finance.

Alujain is a joint stock company with Saudi and other Gulf Arab shareholders.

### China reports huge price increases

BEIJING (AP) — Big increases in the prices of fuel, construction materials and industrial raw materials signal that even higher inflation awaits Chinese consumers later this year.

The State Statistics Bureau said that the retail price index in major cities in April was 17 per cent higher than in April 1992, the biggest month-on-month gain in five years.

But production costs were up even more sharply, the China Daily quoted the bureau as saying. Fuel was up 78 per cent from April 1992, construction materials were up 40 per cent and the prices of various services were up 41 per cent, the paper said.

Reports on the inflation figures in China's official media reflected a new willingness to acknowledge the problem after months of insisting that the economy was

under control. The China Daily warned against "runaway investment in fixed assets" and quoted economists as saying that it was crucial for the government to tighten regulation over development.

Industrial output maintained the same strong pace seen in the first three months of the year. Output by state-owned factories in April was up 25 per cent from April 1992, while output by smaller, more efficient township factories was up 71.5 per cent, the Economic Information Daily (Jingji Cankao Bao) said.

The burst of investment, a major factor in the rising inflation, reflects how closely many companies follow political rather than economic trends in making expansion plans: They are responding to senior leader Deng Xiaoping's call last spring for bold

reform and development. Experience tells them the government will eventually shift gears, tighten credit and discourage growth, and they want to grab the opportunity while it lasts.

Recently the central bank raised interest rates on savings accounts and loans in hopes of encouraging savings and discouraging lending. But the China Daily quoted Wang Dayong of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, as saying the rate increases were less than expected and would have only limited impact.

The government increased the cost of loans by less than one percentage point, fearful of increasing the burden on state-run enterprises.

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## Two leading political parties virtually tied in Cambodian election results

PHNOM PENH (R) — The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the main opposition royalist party were virtually tied Sunday as vote counting continued following the country's first multiparty elections in decades.

With fewer than half a million ballots counted out of 4.2 million cast, the CPP of Prime Minister Hun Sen won 189,005, or 41.1 per cent, while royalists Funcinpec had 184,497, or 40.1 per cent, the U.N. announced.

While the royalists were swamping the CPP in the capital, the opposite was true in the countryside.

With 45 per cent of the Phnom Penh vote counted, the Royalists had 86,735 to the CPP's 49,045.

But in underpopulated Ratanakiri province in the far northeast, the CPP took 15,605 votes to only 9,824 for Funcinpec.

The 18 other parties that participated in the U.N.-run, six-day national poll trailed far behind, led by the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Son Sann with 14,612 votes nationwide, or 3.2 per cent.

Funcinpec, a French acronym for National United Front For an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, is led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

On Saturday night, after U.N. counters reported preliminary results showing Funcinpec in the lead, the government radio and television stations said the U.N.

figures were confused and could cause disorder.

"We hope UNTAC (the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia) will be more impartial," senior CPP spokesman Sok An told reporters Sunday.

Although the radical Khmer Rouge threatened violence to stop people voting in the elections it boycotted, the polls were almost without incident.

But that has done little to persuade Cambodians that the calm will continue through the transition period that is to lead the country away from a quarter century of political thuggery towards democracy.

"We might face difficulties even in the military field," Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Saturday. "I am very frightened that the

Khmer Rouge will return to Phnom Penh," said Bo, a 21-year-old student.

"I think that if Hun Sen loses the election, the police and army will stay loyal to him and will not join Funcinpec," said a 22-year-old farming student.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge put Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s that killed a million people through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour.

They were originally included in the U.N. peace plan because of their military strength, but balked at disarmament and dropped out of the elections saying the vote was part of a plot to turn Cambodia into a Vietnamese colony.

Prince Sihanouk said the 90 per cent voter turnout in the election was an historic rejection of the Khmer Rouge.

Funcinpec describes itself as a liberal democratic party and has urged accommodation with Khmer Rouge members, if not with Pol Pot and other leaders from the "killing fields" years. Its approach is diametrically opposed to the CPP's which sees no role for the Khmer Rouge in the future of Cambodia and is pledged to wiping out its guerrillas.

The CPP was born of the Communist Party Vietnam put in power after it drove the Khmer Rouge out of Phnom Penh in January, 1979. It now advocates market economics.

At stake in the election are 120 seats in a constituent assembly that will write a constitution within three months, and then form a government.



Cambodia in front of the royal palace in Phnom Penh (AFP photo)

## Serb barrage kills 6 in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces poured artillery and tank fire on Sarajevo and attacked Muslim defence lines around the beleaguered east Bosnian enclave of Gorazde Sunday.

U.N. peacekeepers were forced to take shelter in bunkers at their Sarajevo headquarters by the intensity of a shelling blitz that began before dawn and continued throughout the morning.

At least six people were killed and 30 wounded, city hospitals said at noon.

Billy Frewer, a spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) told reporters: "It's a tinderbox situation (in Sarajevo). The slightest provocation seems to set things off."

U.N. military observers said the bulk of the firing hit areas of the Bosnian capital held by the Muslim-led government.

Streets were virtually deserted after Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio warned: "Due to the exceptionally grave security situation in the city, citizens are warned to take maximum security precautions."

Muslim and Serb forces fought an intense tank, mortar and artillery battle for almost an hour early Sunday on Trebevic Mountain which overlooks the city.

Flames broke out on the pine-clad slopes of the mountain whose upper reaches are controlled by Serbs who have besieged

Sarajevo since Bosnia's civil war erupted 14 months ago.

Maj. Frewer said UNPROFOR was trying to persuade the Serbs to allow military observers to go to Gorazde which has been under fierce attack since Friday, according to Sarajevo Radio.

It reported Saturday that 17 Muslim villages in the enclave, where up to 70,000 Muslims are trapped, were set on fire and that Muslim defence lines had been breached in two places.

"We're very concerned about reports from that area," Maj. Frewer said. "We have seen the Bosnian Serbs, in particular, are not honouring promises to demilitarise the Muslim enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa in eastern Zepa."

Gorazde is the last Muslim stronghold in the region which the Serbs have not yet captured or neutralised.

It has been proposed as a U.N. safe area under a new peace plan drafted by the West and Russia since Bosnian Serbs rejected a U.N.-backed peace plan that would have placed eastern Bosnia under Muslim control.

The region was ethnically mixed when fighting began, with

Leaders of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia and the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which has been set up on captured territory in Croatia met in Bijeljina in northern Bosnia Saturday to discuss unification.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said they agreed that unification, which he described as a "strategic goal," should take place gradually.

Guatemalan leader steps back from power seizure

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Under pressure at home and abroad, Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano has announced he was stepping "back" from authoritarian rule adopted five days before.

Mr. Serrano said he would draw up a transition plan, including election of a new Congress, to be submitted to the people for approval in a referendum within 90 days.

Mr. Serrano's message was broadcast as he met the Organization of American States (OAS) secretary general, Joao Baena Soares, who was in Guatemala to press OAS demands for a return to constitutional rule.

The president has been ruling by decree since Tuesday, when he suspended the constitution, the Congress and the Supreme Court in a self-styled crusade against drug-trafficking and corruption.

"In the transition rules, will be included the election of a Congress which will have legislative functions from its installation until the end of current presidential term," Mr. Serrano said.

Mr. Serrano was reading a statement, released later by his press office, entitled "President Serrano's commitment to democracy and proposal to return to constitutional normality."

He appeared to be responding to rejection of his hardline measures expressed by the international community, much of Guatemalan society and sectors of the military.

Guatemala City has been awash with rumours for the past two days that some members of the army were planning to step in this weekend to overthrow Mr. Serrano and restore the constitution — rumours that some diplomats regarded as certainty.

"This...undermines the basis for possible future agreements on dividing the fleet," the Foreign

## Pentagon to change fighting strategy

NEW YORK (R) — The Pentagon is moving toward a new strategy in which the U.S. military would no longer plan on fighting two major wars at once but would handle them in turn, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions.

Under the new approach, if conflicts broke out at the same time in two regions, military force would be used decisively to win one war while air power and a limited number of ground forces would be used to hold the line in another, it said.

After the first war was won, the United States would shift its forces to win a second victory, a strategy Pentagon officials have dubbed "win-hold-win," the New York Times said, quoting unnamed Pentagon officials.

The emerging approach marks a departure from the former Bush administration's strategy that the United States needs forces and weapons to handle two large regional wars at the same time — a decision it reached after the demise of the Soviet Union, the newspaper said.

The newspaper quoted Vernon Guidry, spokesman for Defence Secretary Les Aspin, as acknowledging a change in strategy was being considered but saying Mr. Aspin had made no final decision.

Mr. Aspin "will consult with other members of the national security team before presenting recommendations to the president," Mr. Guidry told the paper.

Meanwhile President Bill Clinton vowed Saturday to make sure U.S. military power remains the strongest in the world despite deep cuts in defence spending brought on by the end of the cold war.

"I will do my part and I think the Congress will too, to make sure our forces are always ready to fight and win on a moments notice," Mr. Clinton said in a

speech to the West Point cadets.

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The United States faces a whole new set of challenges, as old, unresolved conflicts re-emerge after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Mr. Clinton told the 1,003 graduating cadets.

"As we scan today's bloodiest conflicts from the former Soviet Union to Yugoslavia to Armenia to Sudan, the dynamics of the cold war have been replaced by many of the dynamics of old war," he said.

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## French Open

## Sampras, Edberg cruise on clay

PARIS (AP) — Who said serve-and-volleyers can't excel on clay? Pete Sampras and Stefan Edberg are doing just fine.

The top-seeded Sampras and No. 3 Edberg cruised into the round of 16 at the French Open Saturday with straight-set victories, establishing themselves as real threats to wrest the title from the baseline brigade.

Sampras enjoyed a late-afternoon stroll on centre court, sweeping past Joans Svensson of Sweden 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, in a little over two hours. Edberg had only a slightly tougher time in downing American Jonathan Stark 6-4, 7-6, 7-4.

Other fourth-round berths were filled by No. 10 Sergi Bruguera, No. 11 Andrei Medvedev, No. 16 Malivin Washington and a group of unseeded gatecrashers: Marc Goellner of Germany, Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands and qualifier Fernando Meligeni. The biggest surprise was Meligeni, a Brazilian ranked 167th in the world who rallied from two sets down to beat German Patrick Kuhnen 3-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 8-6.

Form continued to hold in the women's competition, with No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini and No. 5 Mary Joe Fernandez winning in straight sets to reach the round of 16.

Despite his No. 1 ranking and seeding, Sampras is not considered the favourite here because of the slow surface. No. 2 Jim Courier, the two-time defending champion with the punishing backcourt game, remains the consensus pick.

The smooth-stroking Sampras did not play brilliant tennis Saturday, and yet he never found himself in trouble against Svensson, a solid clay-court veteran. "I don't want to say I played bad, I just didn't hit the ball that great today," Sampras said. "But I competed well and I got the points I needed to get."

Sampras, who won the U.S. open on hard courts in 1990, said his outlook towards clay has changed since he began trying to master the surface last year.

Edberg had words of praise for Stark.

The plays a little bit similar to me," he said. "He's got a great serve. He needs to improve his movement. He doesn't move that well forward. He looks a bit awkward sometimes. But he's a great talent."

Another rising talent is Goellner, who pulled out a 3-6, 7-6

(7-1), 6-3, 6-7 (8-10), 7-5 victory over Mark Woodforde in a match that lasted 3:49.

The 6-foot-5 German, who wears his baseball hat backwards, pounded 31 aces, including nine in the final set. His next opponent will be Medvedev, the 18-year-old Ukrainian who beat Gabriel Markus 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

"I was extremely nervous in the first set," Medvedev said. "I was shaking, really shaking. It took a long time, but finally I beat it. In the fourth set, it was a completely different story. I was confident and I knew I could hit my best shots."

In the last match of the day, Washington outlasted fellow American Derrick Rostagno 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Bruguera, one of the hottest clay-court specialists of the season, crushed Magnus Larsson 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. He has lost only five games in his past two matches. Haarhuis beat Carl Uwe Steeb 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-1.

Sanchez Vicario, seeded to meet Steffi Graf in the women's final, rolled past Leila Meshki 6-3, 6-0. Sabatini prevailed 6-2, 6-2, over Barbara Rittner, and Fernandez beat fellow Floridian Kathy Rinaldi 6-2, 6-2.

Fernandez, who has never won a Grand Slam event, said this could be her chance.

"That is my goal," she said. "I think I am playing well enough. I can beat anyone."

**Increased security**

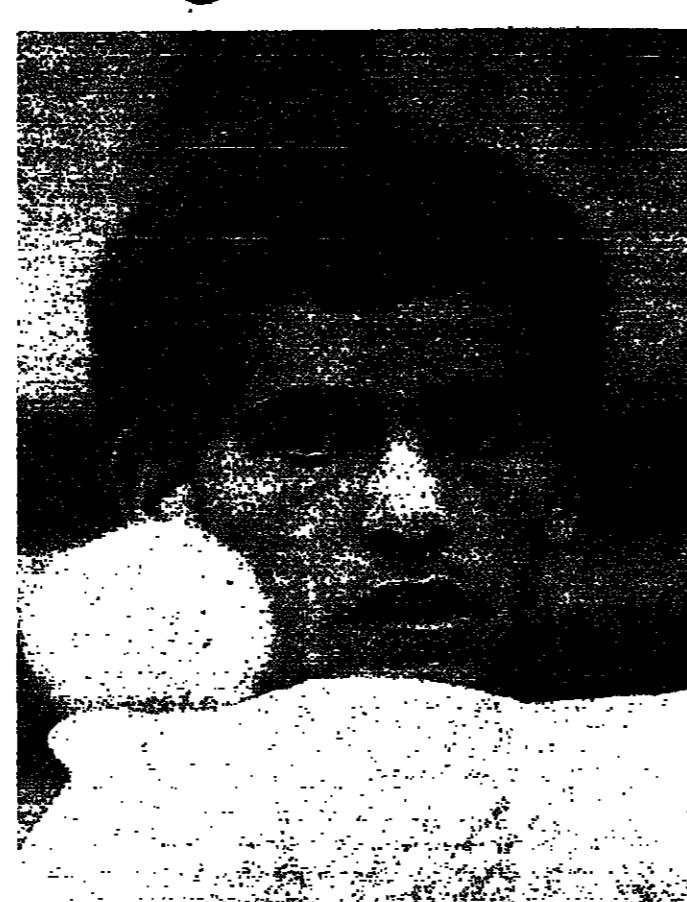
accepted by fans, players

The effects of Monica Seles' stabbing are unmistakable at the French Open — players flanked by bodyguards, spectators searched by metal detectors and increased vigilance throughout the grounds.

Halfway through the tournament, however, there have been no serious incidents and players and fans alike generally accept the increased security as a necessary inconvenience.

"The key to success is prevention. The proof is that after one week, we haven't had a single serious problem," said Herve Dutreuil, deputy tournament director.

Security guards in dark suits are positioned in outside seats behind the players' chairs. During the changeovers, they stand up and survey the crowd, mindful that Seles was stabbed during a tournament in Hamburg on April



World No. 1 Pete Sampras

30 by a spectator who leaned over a barrier.

In one minor incident symbolizing the increased vigilance, a Swedish coach, Tim Klein, was stopped by agents guarding the players' lounge when they found he was carrying a pair of scissors. Klein said he was about to be beaten off until he explained that he only wanted to cut the sleeves off his players' T-shirts.

The No. 1 seeds of the men's and women's divisions here, Jim Courier and Steffi Graf, said they are not overly concerned by the security threats.

At the request of her coach, however, Graf had a personal guard shadowing her everywhere she goes.

Guards form a human cordon around players when they walk to and from outside courts, keeping away autograph-hunters trying to approach their idols.

"It's true that we are hard on the autograph seekers," said one guard, who gave his name as Gontran. "If the player doesn't

want to give them, then we have to be like police. We are then called 'gorillas.'

Fans waiting to get into the grounds Saturday didn't complain about being searched.

"No problem," said one fan, who gave his name only as Robert. "We're searched at airports and other stadiums. Why not at Roland Garros?"

"Monica is my idol," said a 13-year-old girl named Carole. "It's really sad what happened. But it's really not a problem to be searched."

**French Open with no French**

For the first time since 1978, no French male player has reached the fourth round of the French Open.

There were 19 Frenchmen in the draw, but 14 were eliminated in the first round and four lost in the second round. The only survivor was Rodolphe Gilbert, who upset Boris Becker but then lost in the third round to Cisilav

Dosedel of Czechoslovakia.

"The series of defeats might make you think that our tennis has gone down the tubes," said Georges Goven, France's current Davis Cup captain. "That's not the case. We still have 10 players in the top 100 and we won the Davis Cup two years ago. It's true we're disappointed with the results here, but if you look at them closely you can find plausible explanations."

**STEFI AND NO. 1:** Steffi Graf will have to reach the French Open final in order to reclaim the No. 1 ranking from Monica Seles, who is recovering from her stabbing of April 30.

There had been the possibility that Graf could become No. 1 just by reaching the semifinals, but the Women's Tennis Association said Saturday that with the remaining players in her half of the draw she can't earn the necessary 78 bonus points unless she gets to the final.

**GEOGRAPHY LESSON:** What do Guatemala, Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, Ethiopia and Yemen have in common?

They are among the handful of countries which are not receiving the television feed from the French Open.

The good news, however, is that Mongolia, Sudan, Vietnam, North Korea and Afghanistan have been added to the list of countries getting television coverage.

The number of countries broadcasting the tournament has more than doubled in three years. In 1990 there were 60 countries, compared to 130 today.

**French Open glance**

A quick look at Saturday's play, the sixth day of the French Open:

Attendance — 27,093 at Roland Garros Stadium (27,404 in 1992).

Weather — Sunny and windy.

Results — Men: Pete Sampras (1) and Stefan Edberg (3) won in three sets.

Women: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (2), Gabriela Sabatini (3) and Mary Joe Fernandez (5) advanced to the fourth round with straight-set victories.

Quote — "I kind of caught myself in the third set looking down and seeing the Red Clay and thinking, 'here I am.' It was a special feeling," Jonathan Stark after his Centre Court loss to Stefan Edberg.

The first half ended 1-0.

In the second half, Jordan lost quite a few chances. Firas Al Khalaleh missed an easy shot metres away from the Pakistan goal in the 50th minute. A minute later striker Aref Hussein's shot from the same distance was blocked by a Pakistani defender only to reach Suleiman who kicked it high above the post.

Aref Hussein made up for all the lost chances by scoring the second goal in the 56th minute after receiving a long accurate pass from Ahmad Al Shagran.

Pakistan scored their second goal to the week-long tournament by Zaher Ahmad in the 77th minute.



Jordan's national team

World Cup qualifying matches

**Jordan scores first win**

By Aleen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

M O H A M M A D A L A S H H A B

Sunday scored two of

injured players Yousef Al

Ammouri and Mohammad

Mahadim and top scorer Jiryes

Tadros who was booked.

The result was the best

Pakistan has so far after losing

8-0 to Iraq, 5-0 to China and

5-1 to Yemen.

As for the Jordanian team,

the win gave them 4 points in

the overall standings but are

still in fourth place on goal

difference. Jordan will hope

that China lose their game

against Iraq later Sunday and

will have to score more wins to

advance their standings in the

second leg of the first round

which begins in Chengdu, Chi-

na, June 12.

Teams:

Jordan: Mohammad Abu

Daoud, Hisham Abu

Mun' em (Ali Al Zub'd), Suleiman, (Jihad Abdul

Mun' em), Jamal Mahmoud,

Mohammad Al Kaza'li,

Ahmad Al Shaqran, Firas Al

Khalaleh, Aref Hussein, Jam-

al Abu Abed, Murad Al Hera-

n, and Mohammad Al

Ashhab.

Pakistan: Taj Din Aziz, Abdul

Farouq Rahman, Sher

Taher Agha, Imtiaz Butt,

Farouq Aziz (Ghulam

Rasheed), Qazi Ashfaq,

Saleem Mohammad (Zaher

Ahmad), Aamir Butt, Tamer

Pervaiz.

Schedule of second leg of matches in Chengdu, China

★ Saturday, June 12

Iraq vs. Yemen

China vs. Pakistan

★ Friday, June 18

Iraq vs. Pakistan

China vs. Yemen

★ Monday, June 14

Iraq vs. Jordan

Pakistan vs. Yemen

★ Wednesday, June 16

China vs. Iraq

Standings after Sunday's first match

	R	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	3	2	1	—	15	2	5
Yemen	4	2	1	1	8	8	5
China	3	2	—	1	8	1	4
Jordan	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Pakistan	4	—	4	2	21	0	0

**Marseille win record fifth crown**

MARSEILLE (R) — European

Cup Winners Marseille secured a

record fifth consecutive French

League title Saturday with a 3-1

home win over rivals Paris St.

Germain.

But trouble flared when smoke

bombs and missiles were hurled

on the pitch and the game was

stopped for a few minutes after

visiting

